

IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application

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| Inventor(s) | Barbara B Bruno Richard Frank Bruno Howard Paul Katseff Robert Edward Markowitz Bethany Scott Robinson | Case Name | Bruno 380 |
| Filing Date | October 21, 1997 | Serial No. | 08/955,840 |
| Examiner | Paul Loomis | Group Art Unit | 2743 |
| Title | Universal Telecommunications Services Account | | |

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following claims: --

49. A method performed by a first party, comprising the steps of:
undertaking said transaction, in association with a calling-card communication session with a second party, which transaction incurs a debt owed to said first party, exclusive of establishing said calling-card communication session; and
communicating from a billing platform of said first party with a platform that maintains a record of a universal calling card account that was used to establish said calling-card communication session, to debit said calling card account in accordance with said debt.

50. The method of claim **49** further comprising a step of receiving a request from said second party to accept said undertaking.

51. The method of claim **50**, where said request is made via said communication session,

52. The method of claim **49** where said undertaking is in response to a request by said second party.

53. The method of claim **49** where said undertaking is for benefit of said second party.

54. The method of claim **49** where said undertaking is in response to a request by said second party to assume said undertaking.

55. The method of claim **49** where said undertaking is in response to an offer by said first party, and an acceptance by said second party.

56. The method of claim **49** further comprising the step of said second party fulfilling said transaction.

57. The method of claim **49** where said calling-card account is a pre-paid account.

58. The method of claim **49** where said calling-card account is a pre-paid account that can be replenished.

59. The method of claim **49** where said calling-card account is not

60. The method of claim **79** where said billing platform and said platform that maintains a record of calling card account are remote from each other.

61. The method of claim **79** where said billing platform contacts said platform that maintains a record of calling card account essentially concurrently with said undertaking of said transaction.

62. The method of claim **79** where said transaction is initiation of an Internet data service by said second party over said communication session and said amount represents charges for the Internet data service.

63. The method of claim **62** where said transaction is any other service undertaken by said second party that provides said Internet data service.

64. The method of claim **63** where said any other service comprises the provision of video or graphic objects.

65. The method of claim **49** where said transaction is a service.

66. The method of claim **49** where said transaction is a purchase.

67. The method of claim **49** where said transaction is a telecommunication service over and above maintaining said calling-card communication session.

68. A method performed by a first party, comprising the steps of:
receiving, via a calling-card communication session, a request from a second party to undertake a transaction;
undertaking said transaction, which transaction incurs a debt owed to said first party, exclusive of establishing said calling-card communication session; and
communicating from a billing platform of said first party with a platform that maintains a record of a universal calling card account that was used to establish said calling-card communication session, to debit said calling card account in accordance with said debt.

69. A method performed by a first party, to manage a calling-card account, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to debit a calling-card account in order to establish a calling-card communication session for a second party,

receiving a request to pay a debt of said second party, incurred in course of said calling-card communication session, for a transaction that is other than establishment or maintenance of said calling-card communication session; and
taking action relative to said calling-card account.

70. The method of claim 69 where said step of taking action comprises the step of debiting said calling-card account according to said debt.

71. The method of claim 69 where said step of taking action comprises the step of subtracting from a pre-paid credit in said account.

72. The method of claim 69 where said step of taking action comprises the step of adding to a balance-due amount associated with said account.

73. The method of claim 69 where said debt is to a provider that is other than a carrier of said calling-card communication session.

74. The method of claim 73 where said request comes from said provider.

75. The method of claim 69 where said debt is for a telecommunication service.

76. The method of claim 69 where said debt for a transaction requested in course of said calling-card communication session.

77. The method of claim 69 where said step of taking action includes a steps of debiting said account in accord with said debt, and
making a payment to erase said debt.

78. A method carried out by a holder of a calling-card account, comprising the steps of:

establishing a telecommunication connection with a first party by employing said calling-card account; and

agreeing for said first party to undertake a transaction that is other than establishing said telecommunication connection or maintaining said telecommunication connection, for which said first party is entitled to debit said calling-card account.

79. The method of claim 78 where said transaction is for the benefit of said holder.

80. The method of claim 78 where said transaction is a service.

81. The method of claim 78 where said transaction is a purchase.

82. A method carried out by a holder of a calling-card account, comprising the steps of:

establishing a telecommunication connection with a first party by employing said calling-card account; and

authorizing said first party to undertake a transaction that is other than establishing said telecommunication connection or maintaining said telecommunication connection, and to debit said calling-card account for cost of said transaction.

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REMARKS

It is respectfully submitted that the added claims are supported by the specification and are allowable over the known prior art. Specifically, it is believed that none of the prior art, taken individually or in combination, provide for a user that has a telecommunication connection established by the user of a calling-card account to engage in actions in the course of the established connection that causes another party to undertake to do something for which that other party to get paid from the calling-card account. The primary reference used by the Examiner in the prosecution of this case prior to its allowance, U.S. Patent 5621787 issued to McKoy et al, uses a calling card to

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Respectfully,
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Bethany Scott Robinson

11/20/01

Henry T. Brendzel

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Amendment showing changes made

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Please add the following claims: --

- 49.** A method performed by a first party, comprising the steps of:
- undertaking said transaction, in association with a calling-card communication session with a second party, which transaction incurs a debt owed to said first party, exclusive of establishing said calling-card communication session; and
- communicating from a billing platform of said first party with a platform that maintains a record of a universal calling card account that was used to establish said calling-card communication session, to debit said calling card account in accordance with said debt.
- 50.** The method of claim **49** further comprising a step of receiving a request from said second party to accept said undertaking.
- 51.** The method of claim **50**, where said request is made via said communication session,
- 52.** The method of claim **49** where said undertaking is in response to a request by said second party.
- 53.** The method of claim **49** where said undertaking is for benefit of said second party.
- 54.** The method of claim **49** where said undertaking is in response to a request by said second party to assume said undertaking.
- 55.** The method of claim **49** where said undertaking is in response to an offer by said first party, and an acceptance by said second party.

56. The method of claim **49** further comprising the step of said second party fulfilling said transaction.

57. The method of claim **49** where said calling-card account is a pre-paid account.

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63. The method of claim **62** where said transaction is any other service undertaken by said second party that provides said Internet data service.

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65. The method of claim **49** where said transaction is a service.

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receiving a request to pay a debt of said second party, incurred in course of said calling-card communication session, for a transaction that is other than establishment or maintenance of said calling-card communication session; and
taking action relative to said calling-card account.

70. The method of claim 69 where said step of taking action comprises the step of debiting said calling-card account according to said debt.

71. The method of claim 69 where said step of taking action comprises the step of subtracting from a pre-paid credit in said account.

72. The method of claim 69 where said step of taking action comprises the step of adding to a balance-due amount associated with said account.

73. The method of claim 69 where said debt is to a provider that is other than a carrier of said calling-card communication session.

74. The method of claim 73 where said request comes from said provider.

75. The method of claim 69 where said debt is for a telecommunication service.

76. The method of claim 69 where said debt for a transaction requested in course of said calling-card communication session.

77. The method of claim 69 where said step of taking action includes a steps of debiting said account in accord with said debt, and making a payment to erase said debt.

78. A method carried out by a holder of a calling-card account, comprising the steps of:

establishing a telecommunication connection with a first party by employing said calling-card account; and

agreeing for said first party to undertake a transaction that is other than establishing said telecommunication connection or maintaining said telecommunication connection, for which said first party is entitled to debit said calling-card account.

79. The method of claim 78 where said transaction is for the benefit of said holder.

80. The method of claim 78 where said transaction is a service.

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82. A method carried out by a holder of a calling-card account, comprising the steps of:

establishing a telecommunication connection with a first party by employing said calling-card account; and

authorizing said first party to undertake a transaction that is other than establishing said telecommunication connection or maintaining said telecommunication connection, and to debit said calling-card account for cost of said transaction.

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